



*AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
SAFETY
ENGINEERS*

*GREATER
CHICAGO
CHAPTER*



WWW.ASSECHGO.ORG

March, 2003

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

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“Ground Zero, a Safety Officer’s View”

Michael J. Fagel, PhD, CEM:

The tragic events of 9/11 will forever be imbedded in our minds.

As our nation is still combating terrorists and on the brink of war with a nation which apparently supports them, hear first hand from a safety professional who had to deal with safety and other issues resulting from the attack on New York City. In this reflective, informative presentation, Dr. Fagel will share his personal and professional experiences encountered during the 90 days he spent at Ground Zero following the terrorist attack. He worked as a Senior Support Logistics and Safety Officer and interacted with over sixty federal, state and local agencies. **You don’t want to miss this meeting and may want to bring guests to hear this first hand account of the aftermath of this tragic event.**

Mike is currently a Technical Support Specialist for several Federal Agencies dealing with weapons of mass destruction, training, safety and planning.

Registration:	11:30am – 12:00pm
Luncheon:	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Presentation:	12:45pm – 2:45pm
Executive Committee Meeting:	2:45pm – 3:45pm

Location: Cucina Biagio's Restaurant

Directions: Take I-90 (O'Hare) to Harlem Avenue South. Go approximately 3 miles to Lawrence, go West/make right. Cucina Biagio's is on left (South) side of Lawrence.

Advanced Registration	\$20.00
At the Door	\$25.00
Retired Members	\$10.00

OSHA IDENTIFIES WORKPLACES WITH HIGHEST INJURY AND ILLNESS RATES

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is alerting 14,200 employers across the country that their injury and illness rates are higher than average and encouraged them to take steps to reduce hazards and protect their workers. *This year marks the first time the construction industry was included in the notification.*

"The purpose of the notification process is to alert employers that their injury and illness rates are above average," said OSHA Administrator John Henshaw, "and then offer assistance that will help reduce those rates. This process not only raises awareness among employers of their higher than average injury and illness rates, but it also affords them a golden opportunity to take steps to reduce those rates."

The 14,200 sites are listed alphabetically, by state, on OSHA's website at:
http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/foia/hot_9.html.

**The list does not designate those earmarked for programmed inspections. Also, the sites listed are those in states covered by federal OSHA; the list does not include employers in the 21 states and two territories that operate OSHA-approved state plans covering the private sector.

President's Corner

Dear Chapter Members,

In light of recent events affecting the safety of our population, it amazes me how in today's world of knowledge, our society can so blatantly overlook safety considerations. Over 120 people died between two nightclub disasters. From the information that I have read, it seems that consideration of profit was given a higher priority over human life. There is no "woulda, coulda, shoulda" now.

When do we all finally understand that safety can protect not only people, but property as well? After all, it is the mission of our profession. Yes, providing safety products and creating evacuation plans may cost a little more in the beginning. However, when you consider the litigation that will go on for years due to the loss of human life, the difference in cost is not measurable. I hope companies that are cutting costs at every corner these days will take what has happened and preserve monies to ensure safety equipment and procedures are up to date.

The March meeting will be held on March 18th! Mike Fagel is sure to offer an outstanding presentation. His experiences at Ground Zero will bring a new light to disaster recovery and protecting those performing those tasks.

Keep your schedule open for April; we are planning a tour of the Fire Training Center (better known as the Burn Pit) at O'Hare International Airport. We will also be viewing the large fleet that maintains operations such as snow removal, de-icing and mass casualty preparedness.

The elections for next Chapter year will be coming up in May. If you have any interest in participating more, please contact me at manderson@ohare.com to let me know what position you are interested in.

As always, let me know if I can help you out with anything. Wishing you all the best.

Maribeth A. Anderson
President
Greater Chicago Chapter

Reminder: National elections are this month, so don't forget to vote. You'll receive your ballot from ASSE Headquarters and must complete it in March. For our Regional Vice President, there are two candidates: Rich Moscato, a past President of our Chapter, and Chris Patton, current President of the St. Louis Chapter. Your vote is important.

Government Affairs Update

SUMMARY: OSHA requests comment on its proposal to extend OMB approval of the information-collection requirements contained in its Standard on Presence Sensing Device Initiation (PSDI) (29 CFR 1910.217(h)). This standard regulates the use of presence-sensing devices ("PSDs") in mechanical power-press safety systems; a PSD (e.g., a photoelectric field or curtain) automatically stops the stroke of a mechanical power press when the device detects an operator entering a danger zone near the press. Accordingly, the standard protects employees from serious crush injuries, amputations, and death.

DATES: Submit written comments on or before March 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Docket Office, Docket No. ICR-1218-0143(2003), OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; telephone (202) 693-2350. Commenters may transmit written comments of 10 pages or less by facsimile to (202) 693-1648.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theda Kenney, (202) 693-2222. For electronic copies of the ICR, contact OSHA on the Internet at <http://www.osha.gov>.

Have You Evaluated Your Emergency Exits Lately?

OSHA revised its standards for means of egress effective December 9, 2002. The new revision takes into account the NFPA Life Safety Code 101-2000. The new name of this subpart will be Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, and Fire Prevention Plans. This new revision can be found at 29 CFR Part 1910.34 -.39. OSHA believes that exit routes must be a permanent part of a structure and that *employees must know the route to safety*. Otherwise, during an emergency, employees may become confused and take the wrong path to safety.

Human nature is for a person to exit a building at the same location that they entered. Training is the best way to prepare employees for any emergency situation. Training is covered in 1910.38 of this standard. In light of the recent nightclub tragedies, it may be time to check to make sure that you meet the requirements of the means of egress standard. Listed below are some tragedies related to exits:

December 30, 1903—At least 600 people perished in the Iroquois Theatre fire, labeled Chicago's most deadly fire. The theater management had added iron gates over many of the exit doors. Some of the gates were locked, others were unlocked but opening them required operation of a small lever of a type unfamiliar to most theater patrons. Other doors opened inwards. Many people were trapped behind unopened doors. The time it took to open other doors added to the fatal panic.

March 25, 1911--A fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City killed nearly 150 women and young girls because of locked fire exits and inadequate fire extinguishing systems.

April 23, 1940--A fire killed 198 people at the Rhythm Night Club in Natchez, Miss., where a crowd had gathered to see a popular swing band. A decoration caught fire and victims tried to escape through the front entrance, the building's only exit.

November 28, 1942--The Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire was the deadliest in Boston, with 492 lives lost. People rushed to the exits, some of which were locked or had doors that opened inward. One fire door had been welded shut, reportedly to prevent patrons from skipping out on their tabs.

June 30, 1974--A smoky fire at Gulliver's night club in Port Chester, N.Y., killed 24 people, many of whom had difficulty seeing exit signs.

May 28, 1977--There were 164 fatalities in the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire. There was no evacuation plan establishing fire emergency procedures, the capacity of the means of egress for the club was not adequate for the occupant load, and the facility was not provided with automatic sprinkler protection as required by codes in effect in Kentucky at the time of the fire.

September 3, 1991--A fire swept through the Imperial Food Products plant in Hamlet, North Carolina, when a hydraulic line broke, spilling fluid which spread over the concrete floor and ignited a 26-foot-long grease fryer. Workers attempting to escape through a door marked "Fire Door - Do Not Block" found the door locked and were trapped inside the raging inferno. When the fire was finally extinguished 25 people were dead and more than 45 injured.

Feb. 17, 2003--A stampede at the E2 nightclub on Chicago's South Side killed 21 people.

Feb. 20, 2003--A fire during a pyrotechnics display during a concert at The Station Concert Club in West Warwick, R.I., killed dozens of people.

Government Affairs Update

ACTION: Notice of extension

SUMMARY: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is extending the comment period while it continues to explore the feasibility of conducting a negotiated rulemaking (Reg Neg) concerning maintenance of intermodal container chassis and trailers. The FMCSA has hired a convenor to speak to interested parties about the idea of a Reg Neg. The American Association of Railroads (AAR) has requested an extension of time to give a working group additional time to determine if a private-sector solution can be developed. The FMCSA is granting the AAR's request.

DATES: Please submit your comments by April 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Please mail or hand deliver comments about this notice to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251; or submit electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov>. You can copy or examine all comments received at the above street address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays and on-line at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

2003/2004 Candidate Slate

Candidates for officers of the Greater Chicago Chapter Executive Committee are the following:

President	Dawn Boisvert
First Vice President	Vacant
Second Vice President	Maribeth Anderson
Treasurer	Jim Smith
Secretary	Vacant
Delegates	Leslie Batterson Linda Rhodes Rich Moscato

Elections will be held at the May Chapter meeting.

About our March Speaker

Michael J. Fagel, PhD, CEM

Mike spent 90 days at Ground Zero following the terrorist attack. He is currently a Technical Support Specialist for several Federal Agencies dealing with weapons of mass destruction, training, safety and planning.



****Note--Pictures from the February meeting are located at <http://photos.yahoo.com/assechgo>.**